Science and Technology in NER

4599. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a provision to provide budgetary allocation during the Tenth Plan for the development of Science and Technology in the NER particularly in the State of Nagaland;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An allocation of Rs. 172 crores has been made by the Planning Commission to North-Eastern Council (NEC) during the Tenth Plan for development of "Science and Technology Sector" in the NER including the State of Nagaland.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The government is making conscious efforts to promote science and technology in the North-East including Nagaland through various plan schemes such as state science and technology; science popularization; natural resource data management; science and technology based entrepreneurship; science and society; bio-technology and renewable energy.

Control of loss due to national disaster

4600. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Union of Geological Sciences, has made certain recommendations to Government to control loss of life and property in the aftermath of a natural disaster;

(b) if so, the details of their recommendations;

(c) whether Government have studied these recommendations for appropriate action; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Government has not

received any recommendation from International Union of Geological Sciences to control loss of life and property in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increasing the cost of road projects

4601. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI has sought permission from the Uttar Pradesh Government to increase project costs for an Expressway on NH-8;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHAI frequently submits project cost overruns to various State Governments;

(c) whether it is a fact that NHAI has not been able to complete projects without cost overruns;

(d) to what extent is NHAI able to properly assess the costs of any new project realistically; and

(e) the steps proposed to get all project costs assessed by an outside expert agency by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The cost of projects are assessed by reputed independent DPR consultants appointed through transparent and open competitive bidding.

Bridges under construction

4602. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of bridges presently under construction by his Ministry, State-wise;

(b) the time-frame by when the construction would be completed; and

(c) the costs involved in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There are 562 bridges presently under construction on National